



Dear Plant Enthusiasts,

Welcome to the **Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program: Plants**. Whether this is your first course or eighth course, we hope this is one of many weekends we'll learn and practice naturalist skills together as we gain knowledge about the Great Smoky Mountains.

The Smokies are a wonderful place to learn—especially when it comes to plants. This region is a living laboratory known for its biodiversity of plant species and plant communities. By the end of the weekend your head will be full of new information and your heart brimming with a new appreciation for this place through the world of plants. It will be a weekend you won't easily forget!

In Residence:

While in residence we will cover material and skills that could easily take up a semester-long class. If you think this sounds ambitious you are right! In order to accomplish our goals it is necessary for you to do some homework, in the form of readings, to give you the background information needed to take part in discussions and build your toolkit of skills. Be sure to read the document on Basic Botany before your arrival (this will be emailed to you when you register). We will do our best to keep lecture time to a minimum and actually work on learning skills and practicing them in the field. Do NOT feel like you need to have any sort of special skill set related to plants in order to be up to speed—we will learn and practice together and start with plant basics! DO expect to practice the 'sharing' of new knowledge with your new classmates, and do your best to learn a few new terms before you arrive.

Instructor:

I am pleased to be your instructor for this workshop. Visit our website to learn more about me and the rest of our [faculty](#). Guest instructors will also be joining us for this intense weekend spend focusing on botany and opening our senses to the world of plants.

Field Journal:

As with all of our programs here at Tremont Institute, we model the latest in brain-based pedagogy (the study of how people learn), and will encourage the very best skills in you as a developing Naturalist. As many of you know, keeping and maintaining a field journal of the phenomena you witness in nature, is a long-time Naturalist skill and practice that has much value. We will be making time for ample field journaling during this weekend, so each participant will receive a 6" X 8" blank field journal (no lines) that comes with a weatherproof sleeve. If already have a journal that you would prefer to use, feel free to bring it, but it must fit well in a backpack and it should be in a zip-loc bag, as we will be taking them everywhere during the weekend. Please feel free to get excited about honing this field skill by bringing any colored pencils, watercolors, charcoal pencils, etc.

Arrival and Departure:

Plan to arrive at Tremont on Friday between 3:00 and 5:00 pm in order to have enough time to move into the dorm and meet other participants before our 6:00 pm evening meal. Check-In will take place in the Gift Shop, located in our office building, which is the first structure to appear on your left after crossing the bridge onto Tremont's campus. The program will end around 3:00 pm on Sunday.

Weather:

The average daily high in April is 74 degrees F. and the average daily low is 42 degrees F. Be prepared cool, moist early mornings and sunny, and warm afternoons. Expect to be on your feet, in the hot sunshine or under a rainy canopy. We will also be getting down on our knees to look at flowers, plant

parts, soil and pollinators. Bring a rain coat! The Smokies are a very wet and humid climate and you can *expect precipitation in one form or another* at some point during your stay here.

Logistics:

Please read the “Your Visit to Tremont” link for important packing information. Along with your linens and toiletries, you may want to bring a mattress pad to ease the firm mattress, plus a bedside light or headlamp if you are a late-night reader. Also bring binoculars if you own a pair. If you don’t own any we have a limited number of pairs to loan. Also bring a notepad and pencil and any field guides you like. Sturdy walking shoes/boots, outdoor clothing, and a hat are a must for personal comfort. *Note: though wifi is available in the Activity Center, we invite and encourage you to unplug for the weekend.* Learn more about our [food](#) and [facilities](#). Please note that food is not allowed in the dorm.

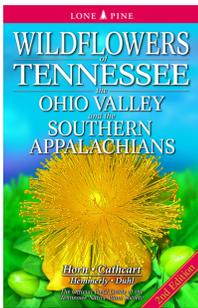
Preparation:

Please read the attachment emailed to you in advance of the course: *Basic Botany*.

A special offer just for YOU...

You will receive a copy of *Birds of the Smokies* during the weekend. Also, during the weekend, you will receive a 15% discount on any merchandise you purchase from our gift shop—this is a great deal!

Suggested Field Guide to purchase (available in our gift shop:



This field guide is used daily by our faculty during the wildflower seasons.

Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians Paperback (2nd Edition printed in 2013) by: Dennis Horn (Author), Tavia Cathcart (Author)

“A first-rate new guide to more than 1200 species. Photos are easy to use; reproduction quality is excellent.” --Chattanooga Times Free Press

I hope this information us helpful to you in planning for your upcoming visit to Tremont. Please tell a friend about us so that they too can learn about the wonders of the Smokies. If you have further questions, please feel free to call me at (865) 448-9732 Ext. 21.

Sincerely,

Jennie McGuigan
Manager of School Partnerships and Teacher Development

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE AT TREMONT
9275 Tremont Road, Townsend, TN 37882
Phone: 865-448-6709 Fax 865-448-9250
www.gsmit.org ~ mail@gsmit.org